## **Vocabulary List:**

The following vocabulary words are those most likely to be used when students visit Wind Cave National Park. They are included here for use by teachers and/or students. You may want to incorporate them into the spelling curriculum or use them for dictionary work before visiting the park. Students should leave Wind Cave National Park with an understanding of these words and concepts.

- **acid** a compound that reacts with a substance by eating or dissolving it away. For example: carbonic acid can dissolve limestone.
- adapt to change or adjust to new surroundings or conditions.
- **adaptation -** a structure or behavior that enables a plant or animal to live successfully in its environment.
- barometric air or atmospheric pressure.
- **boxwork** a speleothem or cave decoration which is a fragile, honeycomb-shaped structure of calcite attached to the walls and ceilings of the cave.
- **calcite** calcium carbon ate, the predominate mineral in limestone, found in the cave in a variety of crystalline forms.
- **carbon dioxide** (CO<sub>2</sub>) an odorless, colorless gas formed by living or decaying plants and animals; the bubbles in soft drinks.
- **carnivore** a meat-eater; an animal that only eats animals.
- **carrying capacity** the number of animals or plants that can live and be healthy in a certain amount of space or land.
- **crystal** the solid form of a substance in which the atoms or molecules are arranged in a definite pattern.
- **deposition** the process of depositing materials through a natural process.
- **dissolve** to merge with a liquid; to disappear into a liquid.
- **ecology** the study of the interrelationships between living things and the relationships between organisms and their physical environment.
- **ecosystem** a living community of plants and animals and the physical environment (air, water, sunlight, soil) around them.
- **effect** to cause, to come into being; anything brought about by a cause.
- environment surroundings; all of the conditions surrounding and affecting the development of

an organism.

**evaporation** - the loss of water; change of state from liquid water to water vapor.

exotic - foreign, introduced into an area where it does not naturally occur.

**extinct** - no longer in existence.

**geology** - the study of the earth, its rocks and landform.

**herbivore** - a plant-eater; an animal that only eats plants.

**interdependence** - mutual dependence, animals or plants that depend upon each other for survival.

**limestone** - a rock formed from sea sediment consisting mainly of the skeletons of marine or aquatic animals.

**native** - a plant or animal that occurs in a region naturally.

**niche** - an especially suitable place to live.

**omnivore** - an animal that eats both plants and animals.

**prairie** - a large treeless area covered with grasses.

**predator** – an animal that seizes and kills another animal for food.

**preserve** - to protect from harm or danger; a place where animals and plants are kept for protection.

**prey** - an animal that is seized by a predator.

refuge - a safe place for plants and animals to live.

**speleothem** - a decoration in a cave, for example: boxwork, stalactite or stalagmite.

**stress** - a force that exerts or applies pressure.

system - a set or arrangement of things so related as to form a whole.

water table - the level or depth in the ground where the rock is completely filled with water and there are no air spaces.

web - a series of connecting strands; the network spun by a spider